

Pseudo-Nambu-Goldstone Boson Dark Matter Inspired by Grand Unification

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A pseudo-Nambu-Goldstone boson (pNGB) is a compelling candidate for dark matter (DM), as it naturally evades the stringent constraints from current DM direct detection experiments. In this framework, the pNGB DM model can be embedded within an $SO(10)$ grand unified theory, where $SO(10)$ is first broken to the Pati-Salam gauge group at the unification scale and subsequently to the Standard Model gauge group at an intermediate scale. Constraints from DM lifetime and gamma-ray observations suggest that the pNGB DM mass must be below $O(100)$ GeV. We find that the thermal relic abundance remains consistent with all constraints when the DM mass is close to half the mass of the CP-even Higgs boson.

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